

The structure and arrangement of their spicules and of the cœnenchyma have been already so well described and figured that nothing further is to be said here.

In our specimens the tunnel formed by the series of expanded wing-like scales at the bases of the lateral polyps makes a very convenient shelter for a slender chætopod.

Several beautiful branches were dredged in the Laccadive Sea off Piti Sandbank (lat. $10^{\circ} 47' 45''$ N., long. $72^{\circ} 40' 20''$ E.) at a depth of 705 fathoms, the bottom being hard rock and fragments of dead and waterworn reef coral.

Of Alcyonaria there were dredged, at the same time, some large branches of a peculiarly beautiful new species of *Stenella*, near to *S. spinosa*, Wright and Studer; a new species of *Acanella*, represented by a single bush-shaped colony complete in every point; and a branch of *Callistephanus Koreni*, Wright and Studer. Of these and other deep-water Alcyonaria from the Andaman Sea I hope shortly to give an account.

VI.—*Description of a new Sciuropterus from the Philippines.* By OLDFIELD THOMAS.

FOR many years there have been in the British Museum three specimens of a Flying Squirrel from Palawan resembling superficially *S. alboniger*, Hodgs., but proving on a careful comparison of the skulls and other characters to be essentially different from that animal. I propose to call the species

Sciuropterus nigripes, sp. n.

Size large, one of the largest of the genus. Fur long, thick and rather woolly, not so silky as in *S. alboniger*. General colour above grizzled greyish brown, the woolly under-fur pale slaty grey, the straight upper-fur with broad pale drab terminal or subterminal bands. Ears large, thinly haired and blackish terminally, but with longer yellowish hairs on their basal surfaces externally. No longer hairs round base of ears, nor any cheek-tuft. Parachute above rather thinly haired, similar in colour to the back. Lips, both upper and lower, black, contrasting markedly with the pale colour of the cheeks and throat.

Throat, chest, and centre of belly whitish, the hairs yellowish white to their roots; rest of under surface greyish white, the bases of the hairs slaty grey; but the distribution of the patches of uniform whitish and grey and whitish hairs

is quite irregular. Posterior fringe to hind limbs like back, or rather tending towards an orange tone. Upper surface of hands and feet uniform black; under surface of heel and fringe of hind feet brownish black. Tail long, thickly clothed, indistinctly distichous; its proximal hairs yellowish or whitish, broadly tipped with brown, its terminal ones wholly dark brown.

Skull decidedly larger than that of *S. alboniger*, but very similar in its proportions, in the relative length of the muzzle, and in the size and direction of the postorbital processes. Interparietal unusually produced antero-posteriorly, its length nearly equalling its breadth. Mastoid portion of bulla swollen posteriorly above and behind the meatus. Teeth large and heavy, their crests well developed and the valleys between them deep; p^4 elongate, its longitudinal diameter slightly exceeding that of m^1 ; surface of teeth with minute crenulations; m^3 with a minute extra ridge running longitudinally across the inner end of the main transverse ridge.

Dimensions of the type (an adult female in skin):—

Head and body (c.) 330 millim.; tail 250; hind foot (damped) 50; ear from notch (dried and shrunk) 26.

Skull*: upper length (c.) 51·5; zygomatic breadth 32·5; nasals, length 15·1, greatest breadth 8·6; interorbital breadth (ignoring supraorbital notches) 12·3, intertemporal breadth 12·2; palate, length 28; diastema 10·6; length of upper cheek-teeth, from front of p^4 to back of m^3 , 11·4; length of p^3 alone 3·0.

Hab. Puerta Princesa, Palawan. Coll. A. Everett.

Besides the type (B.M. 79. 5. 3. 2) there are two other skins and a skeleton of this species in the Museum collection; all were obtained by Mr. Everett between Nov. 1877 and Jan. 1878. One of the other skins is mottled all over with white and is evidently a partial albino.

The only species with which *S. nigripes* could be confounded is *S. alboniger*, Hodgs., a native of Nepal, Sikim, N. Burma, &c., and from this it is readily distinguished by its decidedly greater size, its black lips, black hands and feet (in *S. alboniger* the hands are grey and the feet brown), its paler and less thickly haired parachute, and its larger and heavier teeth.

* The following additional measurements are taken on the more perfect skull belonging to the skeleton:—Basal length 45·8; tip to tip of postorbital processes 23·5; horizontal antero-posterior diameter of bulla 10·4.